

-- Fig. 13 (a), 13 (b) and 13 (c) are perspective views of a line illuminating device according to a seventh embodiment of the present invention; --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 32, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Fig. 19 (a) and 19 (b) are views showing an output signal when a document with a black rectangular area is read in the line illuminating device as shown in Fig. 16; --

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3, 4 and 8 as follows:

3. (amended) The line illuminating device according to claim 1, wherein each light guide is housed in a casing in such a manner that at least the emission plane is exposed.

4. (amended) The line illuminating device according to claim 1, wherein the light guide is formed with light-scattering patterns for scattering illuminating light at a predetermined plane except for an incident plane and the emission plane of the light guide.

8. (amended) The line illuminating device according to claim 5, wherein, under conditions where the pair of light guides are arranged in such a manner that the light emitted from each emission plane irradiates the same area of the document-reading plane, one light guide is provided with a light-emitting source at one end of the longitudinal direction, while the other light guide is provided with a light-emitting source at the other end of the longitudinal direction.

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 4 and 8. The specification has been amended to more accurately describe the figures.